

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

The following is a complete, marked-up listing of revised claims with a status identifier in parenthesis, underlined text indicating insertions, and strike through and/or double-bracketed text indicating deletions.

**LISTING OF CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) An optical reference standard for the calibration of an analysis instrument, comprising:  
  
an optical reference material including a binder and a cereal formed into a matrix to fixedly hold an amount of water, the reference material being constituted with the binder, the cereal and the water present in amounts to provide the reference standard with desired spectral, mechanical and temporal characteristics to imitate those of a product to be analyzed by the analysis treatment.
2. (Previously Presented) An optical reference standard as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the cereal is selected from the group of one or more of oats, barley and wheat.
3. (Previously Presented) An optical reference standard as claimed in Claim 2 wherein the cereal is oats in the form of one or other of oatmeal and oat flour.
4. (Previously Presented) An optical reference standard as claimed in claim 1, wherein the binder is a gelling agent.

5. (Previously Presented) An optical reference standard as claimed in claim 1, wherein the optical reference material further comprises one or more components selected to vary its optical density.